Indian Airlines will be receiving 12 Airbus A-320 aircraft, presently on order, during 1993-94.

Extension of Air India cargo service to Africa

461. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to extend Air India Cargo service to transport vegetables and flowers to African countries;

(b) if so, the details of the centres from where the Air India Cargo service will be operated;

(c) whether any places in Madhya Pradesh have been identified for extention of this facility;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Expansion of tourism in the country

462. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts have been made to create better conditions for expansion of tourism in the country during the last three years, and

(b) what are the details of these efforts in regard to Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Development and promotion of tourism is a continuous process and is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Department of Tourism during the last three years have extended more financial assistance for augmentation of tourism infrastructure in the country and has taken effective steps for promoting tourism from the tourist generating markets abroad.

(b) Financial assistance amounting to Rs. 566.14 lakhs was sanctioned to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, which includes construction of 2 Yatri Niwases, 1 Yatrika, 6 Tourist Bungalow, 6 Tourist lodges, 7 Wayside facilities, 1 Tourist Complex and 1 Tourist Reception Centre. Financial assistance has also been extended for development of adventure sports, camping tourism, flood-lighting and publicity etc.

Creation of posts in Air India

463. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether additional top posts in Air India are being created;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether about one thousand posts of low paid employees are lying vacant; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No proposals in this regard have been received.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) About 800 posts in categories 'C' and 'D' are vacant and action to fill these posts is being taken as per the recruitment rules.

Tourism Development Action Plan

464. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 922 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd December, 1991 and state:

(a) whether Government have formulated the action plan to encourage tourism; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether under the above action plan Government propose to develop places showing Indian Culture and Civilization; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The National Action Plan for Tourism was laid in the Parliament on 5.5.92. The objectives of the Action Plan are as under:—

- Socio-economic development of areas
- Increasing employment opportunities
- Developing domestic tourism especially for the budget category
- Preservation of nation heritage and environment.
- Development of international tourism and optimisation of foreign exchange earnings.
- Diversification of the tourism product, and
- Increase in India's Share in World tourism.

(b) and (c) The action plan envisages development of tourist centres depicting Indian Culture and Civilization at the identified tourist destinations|circuits. The Plan also envisages setting up of craft villages and organisation of fairs and festivals so as to project Indian Culture and Civilization.

Functioning of Indian Airlines

465. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL:

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the report appearing in the *Indian Express* dated 24th June, 1992 highlighting the unsatisfactory functioning of Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps Government propose to take to remove the deficiencies in its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Incidents of industrial unrest/agitations, employee indiscipline, lack of coordination between Departments, shortage of aircraft spares, short-comings in aircraft maintenance and passenger handling in Indian Airlines have been reported. The situation is being closely monitored and the Indian Airlines management advised to take appropriate steps to overcome these short-comings and improve the functioning.

Airbus A-300 stranded at Nagpur

466. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Airbus-A-300 carrying over 200 passengers in its flight IC 540-Madras-Delhi had to be diverted to Nagpur where it was stranded for more than 24 hours as the Airlines engineers failed to carry out the repairs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what measures have been taken to revamp the engineering department to avoid recurrance of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The aircraft operating IC-539 of 24.6.92 from Madras to Delhi was grounded at Nagpur at 2340 hours due to a technical snag. For rectification of the snag men and material were sent from Bombay on 25.6.1992. The delayed